

Message Text

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50/44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 GSA-01 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 /080 W

----- 116284

R 191222Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7190

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2940

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EINV, TD, JM, GY

SUBJ: TRINIDAD ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT: PARTNERS TO
UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY

REF: POS 2912

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRIME MINISTERS WILLIAMS, BURNHAM AND MANLEY MET MONDAY
DECEMBER 16 (NOT SUNDAY AS EXPECTED REFTel IN PORT OF SPAIN
TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TRIPARTITE ALUMINUM SMELTER PROJECT.
AFTER FOUR-HOUR-LONG MEETING, ONLY DECISION ANNOUNCED TO
PUBLIC WAS THAT TRINIDAD'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORA-
TION (IDC) HAD BEEN GRANTED AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT
FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH UNNAMED FIRM OF CONSULTANTS.
CONTRACT IS TO BE LET EARLY IN 1975, AND STUDY IS TO BE
COMPLETED IN FOUR MONTHS' TIME. THE IDC WILL ALSO OPERATE
A SECRETARIAT TO COORDINATE THE PROJECT, AND THE THREE
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COUNTRIES AGREED TO SUPPLY A TOTAL OF US\$25,000 FOR THE

SECRETARIAT'S OPERATION. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. COMMENT: MANY TRINIDADIAN'S HAVE QUESTIONED JAMAICA'S
INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT, IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCED PLANS TO
BUILD A SMELTER JOINTLY WITH MEXICO. NEVERTHELESS,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MAHABIR PUBLICLY MAINTAINS
THAT THE JAMAICA-MEXICO AGREEMENT WILL NOT ALTER PLANS FOR
THE TRINIDAD SMELTER. WE FEEL THAT THE TRINIDAD PROJECT
IS HIGHLY TENTATIVE, AND DOUBT THAT ANY FIRM COMMITMENTS
WILL BE MADE UNTIL LATE 1975.
RICH

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30 JUN 2005

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